## **CLAIMS**

1. A system for managing relationships between public agencies and local serviceproviders, the system comprising:

- a central server in communication with public agencies through a private network and with local service-providers through a public network, the central server configured to execute
  - a profiling module configured to exchange standardized information with a local service-provider over the public network and with a public agency over the private network;
  - an invoicing module in communication with the profiling module, the invoicing module being configured to process claims submitted by the local service-providers;
  - a compliance module in communication with the profiling module, the compliance module being configured to monitor compliance with contracts between the local service-providers and the public agencies;
  - a demand module in communication with the profiling module for forecasting demand for services; and

a procurement module in communication with the profiling module for entering into contracts with the local service-providers.

- 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the compliance module is configured to monitor compliance based primarily on inputs from the invoicing module.
- 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the demand module is configured to forecast demand based primarily on inputs from the compliance module.
- 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the procurement module is configured to determine costs associated with the contracts based primarily on inputs from the demand module.

- 5. The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the claims submitted by the local service-providers refers to contracted services delivered to a consumer.
- 6. The system of claim 5, wherein the invoicing module is configured to execute a rules engine to validate the claims based on contract information and information associated with the consumer.
- 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the procurement module is further configured to identify services according to a classification system for the services.
- 8. The system of claim 7, wherein the classification system includes classification according to a purpose of services and classification according to levels of care.
- 9. The system of claim 1, wherein the profiling module associates the standardized information with categories for interpreting the standardized information.
- 10. The system of claim 9, wherein categories include at least one category selected from the group consisting of:

type of service;

type of consumer;

type of facility;

amount paid; and

unit of service.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein a type of service category is configured to include at least two types selected from the group consisting of:

childcare;

transportation; and

psychiatric examination.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein a unit of service category is configured to include at least two units selected from the group consisting of:

a residential bed;

a medical procedure; and

an employment placement outcome.

13. A method comprising:

accepting utilization information characterizing costs associated with services purchased by a plurality of agencies from a plurality of service-providers;

on the basis of the utilization information, generating overlap statistics characterizing services purchased by different agencies from a common service-provider; and

generating a graphical representation of the overlap statistics.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein generating the graphical representation comprises:

rendering a first graphical element identifying a first agency of the plurality of agencies;

rendering a second graphical element identifying a second agency of the plurality of agencies; and

rendering an intersection element corresponding to the first graphical element and the second graphical element, the intersection element including a quantity representing services purchased by the first agency and services purchased by the second agency from a common service-provider.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the first graphical element comprises a heading of a row, the second graphical element comprises a heading of a column, and the intersection element comprises a cell corresponding to said row and said column.

- 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the first graphical element comprises a first shape, the second graphical element comprises a second shape, and the intersection element corresponds to an intersection of the first shape and the second shape.
- 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the intersection element further corresponds to an intersection of the first shape and a third shape and an intersection of the second shape and the third shape, wherein the third shape identifies a third agency of the plurality of agencies.
- 18. The method of claim 14, wherein the graphical representation further comprises:
  - a list including service-providers from whom services were purchased by both the first agency and the second agency, the list being associated with the intersection element.
- 19. The method of claim 14, wherein the graphical representation further comprises:
  - a list including types of services purchased by the first agency from a serviceprovider from whom services were purchased by both the first agency and the second agency, the list being associated with the intersection element.
- 20. An article of manufacture having computer-readable program portions embodied therein, the article comprising instructions for causing a processor to perform the method of claim 13.